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REPORTS ON BRUCELLOSIS PRESENTED AT SESSION
OF ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES USSR

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The scientific session [called by the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR and the Ministry of Health Uzbek SSR and held in Tashkent 20-25 September 1954] subjected to many-sided discussion the complex problems connected with the control of brucellosis, which are of great importance from the standpoint of economics and public health. Problems pertaining to the epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical aspects, prophylaxis, and therapy of brucellosis were discussed in reports presented by Prof G. P. Rudnev, Active Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR; Prof T. Kh. Nadzhimiddinov; Prof I. K. Karakulov, Corresponding Member of The Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR; and Kh. A. Yunusova (Tashkent), Candidate of Medical Sciences.

After pointing out that there has been definite progress in the prophylaxis and therapy of brucellosis, the authors of the reports stated that physicians must carefully consider all epidemiological factors when they diagnose this disease. The therapy of brucellosis, which must be specific and adapted to the pathogenesis of the disease [rather than symptomatic], should correspond in all its stages to the particular phase of the disease and to the condition of the organism. As far as therapeutic procedures are concerned, the recently modified method of inoculation therapy (intravenous inoculation in two stages), the application of a number of new antibiotics, X-ray therapy, and electropyrrexia are most effective.

The participants in the session listened with interest to the papers by Docent Sh. Kh. Khodzhaev (Tashkent) and D. G. Babayev (Baku) dealing with quantitative and qualitative changes in the peripheral blood and in the bone marrow due to brucellosis, as well as with organic afflictions of the cardiovascular system, particularly the endocardium and the aortal valves. Since clinical aspects of brucellar endocarditis resemble those of septic endocarditis, it is necessary to revise the views concerning the etiology of the latter. Assistant Z. Ya. Abdullakhodzhaev (Stalinabad) related experience in the treatment of chronic and subacute forms of brucellosis with the aid of a new and merciful method of electropyrrexia (production of artificial fever in patients who do not have a raised temperature).

Prof O. D. Sokolova-Ponomareva, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, described in detail the characteristics of the clinical course of brucellosis in children. Brucellosis in children is distinguished by a definite polymorphism, various afflictions of the skin (rashes) and of the lymphatic system, vascular insufficiency, and gastrointestinal disturbances (dyspepsia and colites). In addition to inoculation therapy and the application of antibiotics, complete and effective treatment must include good care, good nourishment, and administration of vitamin C.

Prof Z. V. Yermol'yeva, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, reported on the results of a clinical investigation of the therapeutic effectiveness of antibiotics. According to Yermol'yeva, the best results were obtained by applying biomycin and terramycin in combination with the brucellosis vaccine.

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However, as has been pointed out in a report by Prof A. F. Bilibin, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, it is an error to assume that the application of antibiotics has opened a new era in the therapy of brucellosis. The therapy of this disease still remains as difficult and complex as it was before. One cannot assert that some method or preparation is preferable to others, because the success of any method of treatment depends on the stage and period of the disease at which treatment has been begun. Synthomycin and streptomycin must undoubtedly be replaced by levomycetin and biomycin. The effectiveness of antibiotics can be improved by applying them together with the vaccine at the stage of the disease during which the causative factor plays the principal role.

M. M. Rementsova, Candidate of Biological Sciences (Kazakh SSR), raised the interesting question in regard to the zoonotic factor in the epidemiology of brucellosis. After pointing out that Prof Karakulov in his report almost failed to touch on the problem of the natural reservoirs of brucellosis, she expressed the opinion that one cannot regard farm animals as the principal and only reservoir of brucellosis infection. Many cases of the reappearance of brucellosis at farms after its complete elimination there have been recorded. Observations have confirmed that blood-sucking ticks, rodents of the mouse family, and wild, hoofed animals are carriers and transmitters of the brucellosis infection. The problem of the natural reservoirs of brucellosis requires further study.

The experience which has been acquired in the prevention and treatment of brucellosis, particularly as far as elimination of reservoirs and immunization of human beings are concerned, enables us to raise at this point the question of the complete elimination of this disease, especially in the areas of the country where animal husbandry plays an important role.

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